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THE CITIZEN solicits contributions from the general public on any subject—political, religious, educational, or social—so long as they do not contain any personal attacks.
All communications must be accompanied by the writer's name, not necessarily for publication, but as an evidence of good faith. Advertisements for insertion in the current week must be in hand not later than Friday noon.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 1, 1892.

THE POLITICAL OUTLOOK.

"Never knew such a dull Presidential campaign since I can remember." Exclamations of this nature may be heard on every hand, and, indeed, judging from outward appearances, one might almost imagine that the coming election was a matter of small interest to a vast majority of the citizens of the United States—certainly to those resident in the township of Bloomfield. But appearances are by no means always to be relied upon, as has been observed before now. Moreover, lack of demonstration by no means betokens lack of interest, rather the contrary. The most intense interest is sometimes manifest by the most intense quiet.

Shrewd observers are convinced that never since war times have the issues of a campaign excited such thoughtful consideration on the part of all classes of citizens. Certainly this should be so. The anti-protectionists have not within the memory of this generation been more outspoken in their denunciations of a protective tariff, nor more confident in their prediction of present misery and fast oncoming evil as the result of it.

The protectionists, on the contrary, have never "pointed with pride" to the wide-spread blessings of the American system of protection or been more determined in their efforts to continue it in operation. The Democratic platform declares that the ten per cent. tax upon State bank issues of currency should be repealed. The Republicans assert that this would entail financial calamities of the first order. Whether we shall have silver absolutely free, more free, or less free is under discussion, advocates of each declaring that destruction of the commercial edifice will follow the adoption of the other. These are a few of the national questions, and their decision cannot be of small moment. The views of both sides cannot be right; and a wrong decision, while it will doubtless not bring destruction, is none the less likely to bring distress.

As to State politics, the contest is even more exciting because apparently more close at hand. The Republicans assert that the long continuance of the Democratic rule in this State has brought its worst elements into power and that corruption and evil practices have become notorious; that the only method of securing pure and honest administration in the State of New Jersey, and particularly in the great cities, is to put the opposite party into power. The Democrats, on the contrary, contend that in the nomination of Judge Werts they have put forward a worthy candidate and "point with pride" to the Democratic Law Judge of Hudson County and his great work in turning the rascals in—into prison. It is probable that no campaign argument of the Democrats in 1894 had a more powerful effect than the one declaring that pure government could only result in a frequent change of the governing party. Both sides in New Jersey are hampered in the use of this theory at this election, because the application of it would work disaster either to the State or national ticket. The same is the case in New York. "Turn the rascals out," therefore, has not as yet cut much of a figure on either side.

With such issues and the interest they must necessarily excite, it seems safe to predict that the campaign of 1892 will be lively enough before November 8. Even in Bloomfield, if we mistake the signs, the leaders on both sides will find enough to occupy their attention fully before that date.

An Explanation.

Two drummers lately met on the road, and as both were going to the same city they agreed to take a room together at a first-class hotel. One represented a dry-goods house and the other a popular boot and shoe store. Soon after they registered the dry-goods man said to the other: "That hotel clerk seems disposed to run over everybody." "I can easily explain that," was the reply. "You notice that he wears an enormously large diamond, is otherwise foppish, and thinks a great deal of himself; but he is a sensible fellow for all that, and wears such comfortable shoes that it is natural for him to walk fast. They are what are known as Coward's Shoes, from 270 and 272 Greenwich Street, New York."—Advt.

Try a pair of our 43 hand-sewed shoes for ladies or gentlemen, at Shoenthal's.—Advt.

The Bloomfield Coal "Monopoly."
TO THE EDITOR OF THE CITIZEN:
SIR: Has the Bloomfield Coal and Supply Company a right to exist and do business in this community? It would seem not, if what is said of it by some of the communistic cranks of this town is true. Before the company had any corporate existence, the rankest kind of falsehoods were put in circulation with a view to prejudice the public against us and injure our prospects, and each week brings out a new lie. Hitherto we have been too busy looking after our constantly growing trade to give any attention to fairy tales, but we wish now to say a word or two.

For three months we have been quietly attending to our own affairs, and looking carefully after the present wants of our patrons. We have formed no plans for the future beyond determining on certain improvements in our facilities for delivering coal. Some great intellect, however (presumably an interested party), has taken our affairs in hand, and has laid out a policy for us; we are to become a grinding monopoly; and we are to make the public pay dearly for its "short-sightedness next year." Now, Mr. Editor, how can any one say that the public will be "short-sighted next year"? The thing is as absurd as is the statement that we are a grinding monopoly. This means that we have a control of grinding, and as a matter of fact we buy all our feed ready-ground; we never claimed that we ground it. But here is the card that was scattered broadcast through the streets between midnight and morning one night this week. Read it, citizens, and prepare to shiver: "Citizens: Do not buy coal of the monopoly; buy of your old dealers. If you allow the cruel, heartless, arrogant, grinding, avaricious monopoly to drive out of existence and business the old coal-dealers, you will be left to the tender mercies of the monopoly in the future, and pay dearly for your short-sightedness next year. A word to the wise is sufficient. Look ahead." Now you know what to expect; by this time next year we shall control the entire output of Lehigh coal and red flannel shirts; you will have to buy of us or freeze! Seriously, Mr. Editor, isn't this a most contemptible piece of blackguardism? The card itself will prove to be a boomerang, and will do us good in a business way, so we are glad to give it all possible publicity; but the thing which fattered it, and which crawled around the gutters at night distributing it, is unworthy of a moment's notice; the whole business is dirty in the extreme, and we bring it to your notice simply as an example of cowardly, vindictive jealousy, and to supply us with a text for some remarks about ourselves. A few months ago Mr. Newton, looking about for a new business, had occasion to consult Mr. L. B. Barrett in regard to a coal-yard that was for sale in Newark; the outcome of this conversation was the formation of a company whose object was to buy the Newark yard and place Mr. Newton in charge of it. Failing to come to terms with the owner, and hearing that one or two yards were for sale in Bloomfield, we opened negotiations through a third party with two Bloomfield concerns. One of them promptly named his price; we paid it, and assuming charge of Mr. Stiles' business, negotiations with the other party were dropped. Had we been simply an individual nothing would have been said, but being a stock company immediately tongues began to wag; "the public should rise in its might and crush out the combination" (sic), which some said was to put prices down to freeze out other dealers, and others said it was to put prices up to squeeze the public! "The great Reading Railroad was in the deal, and prices were to be put up to \$10.00 a ton!" Meanwhile we pursued the even tenor of our way, attending to our own business, buying good coal, cleaning it well, delivering it carefully, and giving 3,000 pounds to the ton, no more and no less; we have spared no effort to hold Mr. Stiles' old business together and to obtain new patrons. Orders have come to us that hitherto went elsewhere; hence the lachrymæ. Our position as regards the coal-dealers and public of Bloomfield is exactly what Mr. Stiles' was, and there can be no other way of looking at it; there is no "combination" for we have combined with no other concern; there is no monopoly, for every concern that is in existence on the 1st of July last is still doing business, and any coal-dealer in Bloomfield has been impaired, it is a great misfortune but the Bloomfield Coal Company has had nothing to do with it. As to the future, as we said above, our plans are not yet matured, but a very short "look ahead" will probably disclose as fine a coal-yard as there is in Essex County; it will show you coal taken into the yard at a minimum cost, and sent out of the yard in midwinter free from snow, ice, and dirt. A word to the wise is sufficient.

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